

Partial Implementation of the School Meal Programs in an Individual School

Purpose:

This instruction sets forth the policy about partial implementation of school meal programs within an individual school.

Scope:

Sponsors participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

Description:

Partial implementation of the National School Lunch Program is not allowed; however, under certain circumstances partial implementation of the School Breakfast Program may be allowed.

National School Lunch Program - Program benefits must be made available to all children attending participating schools. Requiring students who live near a school to eat lunch at home denies them the opportunity to participate in the program, and is inconsistent with the intent of the law. Discrimination on the basis of the proximity of the child's home to the school is not allowed. However, there is no requirement to provide lunch to partial day students (e.g., preschool, kindergarten, half-day high school students), who are not scheduled to be in school during lunch hours.

School Breakfast Program - There are some circumstances, such as transportation schedules, that may prevent some children from participating in the School Breakfast Program. However, in general, all children in attendance during the breakfast period should have access to the breakfast program in participating schools.

Partial implementation of the breakfast program may be implemented under these three circumstances. First, a SFA may phase the program into an individual school and limit its operation to a selected number of grades or classrooms, with the intent that the SFA has a plan of action or has stated its intent to expand program access to enrolled students in all grades or classes in the building within a reasonable period of time. Second, a school food authority may provide the breakfast program only to the special education students who must leave their homes much earlier than the other enrolled children in order to be bused to their class location. Finally, a school food authority may provide the breakfast program only to kindergarten, pre-kindergarten and other partial day students when such students do not have access to another school meal.

SOURCE: FNS INSTRUCTION DATED OCTOBER 14, 1982.